

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 -15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn) A system for generating electricity from a parking lot comprising:

an outdoor parking area having at least one vehicle parking space;

a canopy having a width and a length defining a sheltered area for said parking space and having a photovoltaic device capable of producing an electrical current when exposed to a light source, said photovoltaic device associated with said canopy to produce electrical current from sunlight;

a supporting structure connected to and supporting said canopy and permitting substantially unobstructed access to the sheltered area; and

an electrical load operatively connected to the photovoltaic device for utilizing the electricity generated by the photovoltaic device when the photovoltaic device is exposed to light.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of producing electricity comprising:

providing a canopy having a width and a length defining a sheltered area and having a photovoltaic device capable of producing an electrical current when exposed to a light source, said photovoltaic device associated with said canopy to produce electrical current from sunlight;

supporting the canopy without walls above an outdoor vehicle parking area with a supporting structure that permits substantially unobstructed access to the parking area;

exposing the photovoltaic device to light to generate electricity; and

connecting an electrical load to the electricity.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein said electrical load is a power meter and the method further comprises reverse metering the power meter.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein said electrical load is a utility company power distribution grid.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 further comprising producing electricity at night with a light emissive material operatively associated with the photovoltaic device dispersed within or placed in the (PV) roof's vicinity.

21. (New) A shelter capable of producing electrical energy comprising:
a canopy defining a sheltered area thereunder, the sheltered area including at least one vehicle parking space;
a supporting structure connected to and supporting the canopy and permitting substantially unobstructed access by a vehicle to the sheltered area;
a photovoltaic device associated with the canopy, the photovoltaic device being capable of producing an electrical current when exposed to sunlight; and
an electrical load operatively connected to the photovoltaic device for utilizing the electricity generated by the photovoltaic device when the photovoltaic device is exposed to light;
wherein the shelter has no walls.

22. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein said photovoltaic device is supported by the canopy.

23. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the photovoltaic device is contained on or in the canopy.

24. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the photovoltaic device forms the canopy.

25. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the photovoltaic device is selected from the group consisting of crystalline photovoltaic systems, flexible thin film photovoltaic systems, stacked photovoltaic layers and photovoltaic and light emissive layers.

26. (New) The shelter of claim 25 wherein said photovoltaic device is transparent.

27. (New) The shelter of claim 26 wherein the transparent photovoltaic device is composed of multiple layers of flexible thin film transparent photovoltaic material.

28. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the canopy has an upper surface and an underside, further comprising:
a first photovoltaic device associated with the upper surface of the canopy and oriented to receive sunlight directly;
an artificial light source associated with the underside of the canopy; and
a second photovoltaic device associated with the underside of the canopy and directed toward the ground to receive light from the artificial light source.

29. (New) The shelter of claim 28 wherein the artificial light source is dispersed within the second photovoltaic device.

30. (New) The shelter of claim 28 wherein the artificial light source comprises a light emitting diode associated with the photovoltaic device.

31. (New) The device of claim 30 wherein the light emitting diode is capable of displaying human readable information.

32. (New) The shelter of claim 30 wherein the light emitting diode is a flexible thin film light emitting diode.

33. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the photovoltaic device further comprises a light emitting coating and the photovoltaic device is capable of generating electricity from the light emitted by the light emitting coating.

34. (New) The shelter of claim 21 wherein the electrical load is selected from the group consisting of the power distribution grid of a utility company and a battery.

35. (New) The shelter of claim 34 wherein said battery is operatively connected to a light which illuminates said sheltered area.

36. (New) A carport comprising:
at least one canopy, the canopy sheltering a parking area for at least one vehicle;
a supporting structure connected to and supporting the canopy and permitting substantially unobstructed access by a vehicle to the parking area;
a photovoltaic device associated with the canopy, the photovoltaic device being capable of producing a DC electrical current when exposed to sunlight; and
an electrical load operatively connected to the photovoltaic device for utilizing the electricity generated by the photovoltaic device when the photovoltaic device is exposed to light.

37. (New) The carport of claim 36 wherein the load comprises a battery which is charged by the DC electrical current produced by the photovoltaic device.

38. (New) The carport of claim 36 further comprising:
an inverter for converting the DC electrical current produced by the photovoltaic device to an AC electrical current; and
a connection for transmitting the AC electrical current to a utility company power grid.

39. (New) The carport of claim 36 further comprising a meter for measuring the AC current produced by the inverter.